



Silver Lake State Park

Shoreline horseback riding

Arrival & staging area etiquette

- A valid Recreation Passport is required on vehicles.
- Vehicles may enter the equestrian staging area (or parking lot) between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Gates will open every day regardless of weather conditions. It's at the visitor's discretion to enter the dunes.
- The vehicle's license plate number must correspond with the reservation.
- Bring your own fork and muck bucket. You must clean up your own manure/hay in the equestrian staging area; a designated manure collection trailer is provided. No manure in any dumpster.
- Vault toilets are in both the equestrian staging area and dunes.
- Be aware that DNR staff may be working and operating 4-wheel drive trucks and tractors in the area during the first two weeks of November.
- There is limited refuse service provided for trash.
- Alcohol is prohibited.

General rules

- You must bring your own horse.
- Open horseback riding in the ORV and/or pedestrian areas is not allowed.
- No drinking water is available for visitors or horses. Please plan accordingly.

Tips for riding (find map on other side)

- Condition your horse to be fit enough for at least a 5- to 10-mile ride.
- Be courteous toward others. When near other riders and pedestrians, give space and stay at a walk.
- Walking or "shuffling" is best when climbing up the dunes. Try to avoid loping or cantering uphill; these gaits can be more strenuous as your horse sinks deeper in the sand. Take breaks as needed.
- Consider riding parallel along the shoreline and not directly into the water until your horse becomes accustomed to the waves.

On the dunes

- A predetermined riding route takes riders through the dunes to the Lake Michigan shoreline. The route is signed and it's important to familiarize yourself before heading out.
- You cannot use tie-downs on horses near water.
- The dunes are open to hunting, but it is not a frequent occurrence.
- The dunes are an everchanging environment. Drifts and freezing conditions can drastically change the landscape overnight.
- Stay out of all ponds as the footing may not be secure and there could be steep/deep drop-offs.

Parking map, patterns

To enter, follow the **GREEN** arrow pattern.
To exit, follow the **RED** arrow pattern.

For safe parking and easy exiting, arrange vehicles in two rows, leaving ample space between them.

Vehicles without horses must park in the pedestrian parking area, 8890 West Shore Dr. in Mears.

Equestrian staging area



Reservation reminders

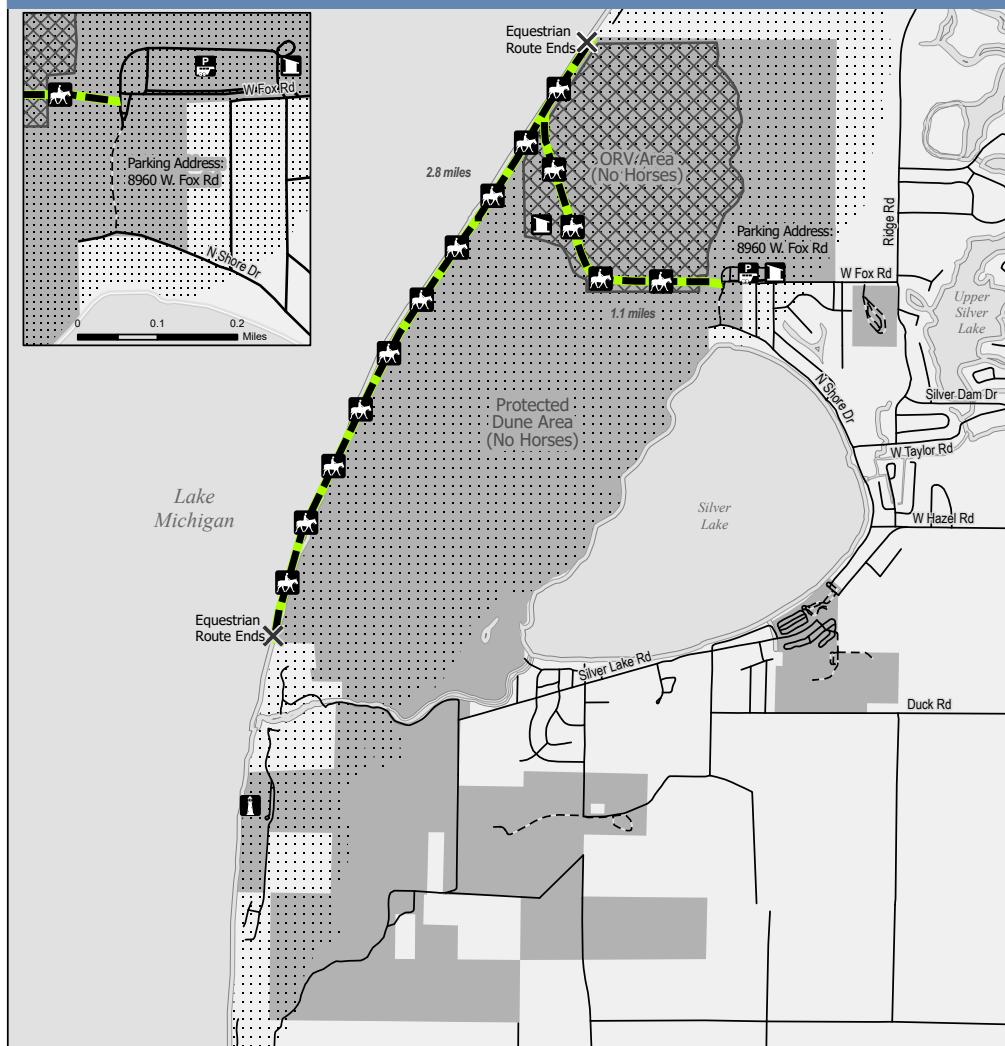
- The annual shoreline riding season takes place Nov. 1-30.
- Reservations open Sept. 1 at 8 a.m. annually at [MiDNRReservations.com](https://midnrreservations.com).
- The cost is \$10 per horse / day. Example: 1 horse trailer with 4 horses = 4 reservations.
- You can cancel your reservations, however, please know they are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Contact info

- Reservations: Call the reservation system at 1-800-447-2757 or 1-800-44 PARKS.
- Shoreline riding: Call Silver Lake State Park at 231-873-3083.

Call 911 for emergencies. DNR staff will be dispatched.

Shoreline horseback riding season, Nov. 1-30



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- State Park Boundary
- Waterbody
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Equestrian Shoreline
- Dunes
- Off-Road Vehicle Area

- Vault Toilet
- Equestrian Staging Area
- Light House



Updated: 09/14/2022

More info

The shoreline horseback riding route begins in the equestrian staging area where you see this posted sign map, just south of the modern restrooms.

The shoreline horseback riding route is marked by the **green** confidence markers.

Please stay between the Lake Michigan water's edge and the marked beach boundary line. Riding in Lake Michigan is allowed.

Please do not ride beyond the marked beach boundary line.